

TOWN OF ROCKLAND

Board of Selectmen

Town Hall
242 Union Street
Rockland, Massachusetts 02370

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S OPEN SESSION held on Tuesday, September 6, 2005 at 7:00 PM in the H. Bernard Monahan Memorial Room, Town Hall, 242 Union Street, Rockland, Massachusetts 02370.

ATTENDANCE: Louis U. Valanzola, Lawrence J. Chaffee, Mary A. Parsons, Keven D. Pratt and Kelli A. O'Brien-McKinnon

A Moment of Silence was held for Judge William Rehnquist and for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Veteran's Agent Anton Materna led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION: Captain Craig De Old – Was presented a plaque in grateful appreciation for serving his country with dedication, dignity and integrity. Your service to our country assures that we will feel protected and our freedoms will be available to enjoy as this battle against terrorism continues. We are proud of your service to your country and we are proud to count you among our friends in Rockland. Thank you and congratulations on your return to the States, we are grateful that you were able to return home safely. Mr. Materna read the citation to accompany the award of the Joint Service Commendation Medal. He distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service as Chief, Analysis Correlation and Fusion Section, Combined Air Operations Center, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, from December 8, 2003 – November 5, 2004.

Mr. Valanzola read proclamations from the President of the United States requesting that the flag be flown at half staff for William Rehnquist and the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

A. MINUTES

1. Minutes – April 19, 2005 – Open Session

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to approve

Second: Mrs. McKinnon-O'Brien

Vote: 5-0

A. MINUTES (Continued)

2. Minutes – May 2, 2005 – Open Session

Motion: Mrs. Parsons to approve with corrections

Second: Mr. Chaffee

Vote: 5-0

3. Minutes – May 16, 2005 – Open Session

Motion: Mrs. Parsons to approve with corrections

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 5-0

4. Minutes – June 6, 2005 – Open Session

Motion: Mrs. Parsons to approve with corrections

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 5-0

5. Minutes – June 20, 2005 – Open Session

Motion: Mrs. Parsons to approve with corrections

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 5-0

6. Minutes – July 18, 2005 – Open Session

Motion: Mrs. Parsons to approve with corrections

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 5-0

B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Vicious Dog Hearing (Continued)

Officer Whittemore was not able to attend. Information was provided to BOS. She verified that the pen is complete.

Mrs. Parsons – the recommendation before us is that if the dog gets loose again or bites another person it will be removed by the Animal Control Officer and not returned. What would the Animal Control Officer be doing with the dog from that point on? Mr. Plante – The dog could actually be placed with another family in another situation. It doesn't necessarily have to be destroyed. It could be put in a shelter for re-adoption, there are several options available. Mrs. Parsons – there is another option that the owners can remove it to another town as well. This is unclear; usually the officer removes it to the local vet then after seven days

that is the end of the dog. There is no hospital report in regard to this dog; I don't even know what this dog looks like. Mr. Valanzola – It's a small dog but a point was made at the last meeting that most of the people who have complained have not filed a formal complaint. If there is anyone out there that does have an issue with this dog they should issue a formal complaint with Officer Whittemore so that it will be on record. Mr. Pratt – I made a formal complaint because the dog did bite me. Mrs. Parsons – At the other dog hearings that we have had people have shown up if they had a complaint and they were in the room. Mr. Plante – I will remind you Mrs. Parsons that this has been an ongoing problem. We had a previous hearing before you were back on the BOS when people did come forward and wrote letters. Mrs. Parsons – I was present at that hearing and no one was there but the Chandlers came forward. Mr. Pratt – The bite wasn't significant to me but had it been a small child....I was wearing dungarees and it bit me in the calf. I showed Mr. Chaffee the marks it made. To me it's a small dog; to a child it's a 40lb dog. Mr. Chaffee – One more time we are talking about a dog complaint that is not the dog at fault but the people at fault. This dog got out of the house after the last hearing. We made it very clear as the board that this dog was not to get out. I would recommend that we take no action on this tonight... table it until the next meeting and inform the Chandler's to be here. Failure for them to be here would make it, in my belief, that they don't care if they keep the dog or not. We need Patty here as well. We need to understand what this call was all about.

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to table until September 19, 2005

Second: Mrs. O'Brien-McKinnon

Vote: 4-0-1 (Mr. Pratt abstained)

2. Pole Hearing Mass Electric

Motion: Mr. Pratt to open hearing

Second: Mr. Chaffee

Vote: 5-0

Mass Electric explained that this Pole hearing is to move pole #35 on Hingham Street approximately 26 feet to the South to accommodate the entranceway to the new condo complex. John Brosnahan (person getting the pole in his yard) spoke– Do I get any recourse here? I already have one pole in my yard. This increases the value of my neighbor's property and decreases mine. You are putting a telephone in front of my house for his convenience. Mass Electric – As long as the roadway is there we can't leave the pole where it is. This is the least amount that we can move the pole to the left-hand side of the entranceway. It's either we move the pole or the developer moves the entranceway. Mr. Chaffee – He already has pole 34 in his yard and now he's getting pole 35. Couldn't that pole be relocated further down the roadway? Mass Electric – If we move the pole in the other direction the neighbor on that side could have the same objection. Mr. Pratt – Could we do away with it completely? Mass Electric – No. The underground facilities to the condo complex are going to come off that pole. Mr. Pratt – Were any other alternatives discussed. Mass Electric – There are no other alternatives.

B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Continued)

3. Pole Hearing Mass Electric

This design was approved by the Town of Rockland. Mr. Pratt – What if we deny your request to move the pole? Mass Electric – Then we won't move the pole. The people who are developing the property are going to have a problem with that. The approved plans do show the pole relocation. Mr. Chaffee – we are trying to look at other options. Is it possible to move that driveway towards 424? Bob Baker – That you would have to discuss with the ZBA, the Planning Board had nothing to do with this project because it was a 40B. The ZBA approved everything up there. Bertha Timmins (424 Hingham Street) – They cannot move that driveway any closer to my property. That has already been discussed with the ZBA. BOS – Discussed distance allowed between poles and plans were looked at and discussed. Mr. Plante – May I make a suggestion. Perhaps we should table this tonight and get in touch with the developer to see if something can be worked out.

Motion: Mrs. Parsons to table

Second: Mr. Chaffee

Vote: 5-0

Motion: Mrs. Parsons to continue Pole Hearing on September 19th

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 5-0

4. Approve Internet Policy

Mr. Plante explained that the policy was changed to read *must be approved by Department Head or Town Administrator* instead of just Town Administrator. The Police Chief was satisfied by that. Mr. Chaffee will be attending a meeting with the Internet Committee to discuss: Internet Policy, information gathering process by Town Departments, access to Selectmen's Minutes, job postings on website and your ideas about the site.

Motion: Mr. Pratt to approve Internet Policy

Second: Mrs. Parsons

Vote: 5-0

C. NEW BUSINESS

1. Request from Town Treasurer

Mr. Plante read letter from Treasurer regarding a retiree who at 65 must apply for Social Security Medicare. He still has two dependent children who would lose coverage if he dropped the family plan from the Town. If the Town allows he could remain on the family plan which will continue coverage for his family and

C. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

2. Request from Town Treasurer

medicare will become his primary coverage. I will need authorization from the BOS to have him continue on the family plan. If the BOS chooses not to continue this coverage it will cost the town more money as we have to pay 75% of each plan (\$1,173.00 per month instead of \$828.00).

Motion: Mr. Pratt to approve

Second: Mrs. Parsons

Vote: 5-0

2. Adopt Principles & Policies of NIMS

Mr. Robert Bowles explained NIMS (National Incident Management System). He is requesting that the Town of Rockland adopt the principles and policies of the NIMS; formally recognize the NIMS as the local standard for incident management; and as such, adopt the Incident Command System as the Town of Rockland's official incident response system. Many Town officials will be required to take a course. Mr. Bowles will be able to teach this class it is approximately a three hour course. You may take this course online also. This must be completed by October 1, 2006.

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to adopt the principles and policies of the National Incident Management System (NIMS); formally recognize the National Incident Management System (NIMS) as the local standard For incident management; and as such, adopt the Incident Command System as the Town of Rockland's official incident response system.

Second: Mrs. Parsons

Vote: 5-0

3. Veterans Day Parade

Jeff Najarian explained that Rockland is hosting the Tri-Town Veterans Day Parade on November 11th at 9:00AM.

Motion: Mr. Pratt to approve

Second: Mr. Chaffee

Vote: 5-0

D. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Plante reported the results from the roof consultant. Fire Station – pretty straight forward. The chimney made need some masonry work. Library – All three roofs are leaking. The copper on the dome needs to be replaced. The library roof will be very expensive. There is an alternative. There are some modern techniques that we

D. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT (Continued)

could use on the dome instead of replacing it with copper. It would still look like copper but it would save us "a ton of money". I think this is something we should take a look at. This would be a 30-year roof. She will make two separate proposals to us for doing the consulting work. I would recommend that you hire her because we are way over our heads with these roofs (particularly the library roof). We have no expertise in this whatsoever. What she would do is the examination, a study, an engineering plan and write the specifications for us to go out to bid. Mr. Pratt - With the Community Block Grant would there be any money to replace that historical roof back to its original condition? Mr. Plante – The problem you have with that is that the money we got this year is just for studies and plans. One hundred thousand sounds like a lot of money but it really isn't. The big grant (\$600,000) we wouldn't even apply for that until next year. Therefore, we are talking a year or two before those funds would become available. We don't have that kind of time. That roof has to be dealt with before the first snow flies.

In view of the situation on the Gulf Coast, we have a lady who is going to run a yard sale for Hurricane Relief. She is a volunteer for the American Red Cross. She is asking that if you have items to donate to give them to her...she lives at 23 Maple Street in Rockland and her phone number is 781-871-4664. The yard sale is scheduled for Saturday, September 10th. This information will be posted on bulletin board and on cable TV. Chief Sammon – Another effort from the Board of Health is being conducted. Items of clothing and shoes. They must be bagged or boxed and marked "men", "women" or "child". They can call the BOH or they can call the Fire Station. You may drop items off at the Fire Station from 8:00AM-8:00PM until September 20th.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Valanzola read the following correspondence:

From Timothy Cruz to Chief Donovan – Thanking the Police Department for their participation in the Eleventh Annual Plymouth County Drug Education Summer Program and thanking Sergeant Nick Zeoli for his participation.

From Glenn Heikkila to Anton Materna (Veterans Agent) – Thanking him for helping with a wheelchair ramp for their father. We thank Tony and the Rockland Veteran's Services for a job well done.

From Kimberly Phelps-Nelson to Chief Sammon – Appreciation for the Fire Department in the way they handled the China Plaza fire. Their building was able to escape with only minor damage and disruption to our regular business activity. They also mentioned and no less significant were your actions as well as Deputy Chief Bill Ferguson in dealing with the aftermath of the fire.

From Governor Romney regarding "Operation Helping Hand Volunteer Helpline". The purpose of this is to develop a database of potential volunteers and the skills they

E. CORRESPONDENCE (Continued)

can offer when requested. If you are interested in donating your time the number is 1-800-293-4031. This number is NOT for monetary contributions. Companies who would like to make corporate donations please call 1-508-820-2000. The following important email donation contacts were given:

National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) – www.nvoad.org

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – www.fema.gov

American Red Cross – 1-800-HELP NOW – www.redcross.org

Salvation Army – 1-800-SAL-ARMY – www.salvationarmyusa.org

From Lt. Barry Ashton to BOS – Because of contractor scheduling difficulties, the grinding and re-paving of Hingham Street from Bella's Restaurant to Webster Street has been delayed for one week. The starting date for this road work is now scheduled for Monday, September 12th. This project will still take three weeks to complete.

From The Rockland Playground Committee to Chief Donovan – Thanking the Police Department for supporting their "Back to School Party" for the children. Officer Simpson did a great job with his instructions of back to school safety. The bumper stickers were a big hit.

F. OPEN FORUM

Mrs. O'Brien-McKinnon – I have received complaints from the residents of West Water Street concerning the amount of cars unregistered and work vehicles that are being parked in the Estes parking lot that is privately owned. This has been an issue for quite some time with the Town. I spoke to Attorney Laura Powers and she is working with the owner now. They will be given notice to move their vehicles. They are also dumping rubbish. Right now we are waiting to hear back from Attorney Powers. Chief Sammon – If they have a gate or something put up there we will need a key in case there is a fire.

CD ran out. Comments by Mr. Pratt, Mrs. Parsons and Mr. Valanzola not were recorded.

Mr. Chaffee – Spoke regarding the Teen Center. On a Friday night there are approximately 350 kids there. We need people to come down and help out and chaperone.

Motion: Mr. Chaffee to adjourn at 8:24PM and enter Executive Session for purposes of potential litigation and not to reconvene.

Second: Mr. Pratt

Vote: 5-0 Mr. Chaffee-yes, Mrs. Parsons-yes, Mr. Pratt-yes, Mrs. O'Brien-McKinnon-yes and Mr. Valanzola-yes

LAWRENCE J. CHAFFEE
VICE-CHAIRMAN

BRADLEY A. PLANTE
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR